



SB26 –Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Social Services Programs – Eligibility and Enrollment

SUPPORT

Testimony of Maryland Centers for Independent Living

Senate Finance Committee, February 2, 2023

The seven Centers for Independent Living (CIL) were established by federal law and work to ensure the civil rights and quality services of people with disabilities in Maryland. Centers for Independent Living are nonprofit disability resource and advocacy organizations located throughout Maryland operated by and for people with disabilities. CIL staff and Boards are at least 51% people with disabilities. We are part of a nationwide network providing the following core services: Information and Referral; Advocacy; Peer Support; Independent Living Skills training and Transition Services.

This bill would automatically grant Medicaid eligibility to children and adults enrolled in SNAP. The staff of Centers for Independent Living support hundreds of people with disabilities around the state to apply for SNAP, it would increase the efficiency greatly if this application also enrolled individuals in Medicaid. The individuals we support are often dissuaded from applying for public assistance or insurance because of the amount of paperwork and documentation needed. To be able to reduce that would significantly reduce the levels of uninsured in Maryland while at the same time improving health equity.

This legislation would also eliminate paperwork currently required for over half a million SNAP recipients in Maryland to renew their Medicaid benefits, creating administrative savings for Maryland. This would be extremely beneficial for individuals with disabilities in Maryland, renewals can be missed and then it is time consuming to reestablish.

This legislation will benefit individuals with disabilities greatly in accessing SNAP and Medicaid in a far more streamlined way.

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